

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03777 01 OF 02 020851Z

21

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00

/024 W

----- 116918

O R 020640Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9576

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3777

SAIGON FOR ASST SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, MILI, MOPS, EAID, CB, US

SUBJ: INFORMATION REQUESTED BY CODEL

1. THE INDOCHINA CODEL REQUESTED CERTAIN INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY PROMISED TO PROVIDE PRIOR TO THEIR TAKEOFF FROM SAIGON LATER TODAY. THIS COVERED AMMUNITION CONSUMPTION RATES, RECRUITING, CASUALTY FIGURES FOR FANK, AND PROGRAM EXPENDITURES FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN MAP AND IN THE AID PROGRAMS.

2. RECRUITS. FANK HAS RECEIVED 4,871 NEW RECRUITS BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND FEB. 28.

3. CASUALTY FIGURES. HERE A WORD OF CAUTION IS NEEDED. THE SYSTEM FOR CASUALTY REPORTING WITHIN FANK IS NOTORIOUSLY POOR AND INCOMPLETE, AND SIZEABLE DISCREPANCIES OFTEN APPEAR BETWEEN DIFFERENT SOURCES. WHILE THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE DOES ITS BEST TO RECONCILE THESE FIGURES, WE ARE OFTEN IN THE POSITION OF ARRIVING AT OUR OWN ESTIMATE, WHICH IN SOME CASES IS BASED ON ACTUAL OBSERVATIONS OF PARTICULAR UNITS AFFECTED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE OPERATIONS SECTION (J-3) OF FANK
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03777 01 OF 02 020851Z

HEADQUARTERS, TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR JAN/FEB WERE:

2,037 KILLED IN ACTION (1158 FOR JAN 879 FOR FEB);
8,025 WOUNDED IN ACTION (3,948 FOR JAN, 4,077 FOR FEB),
AND 674 MISSING IN ACTION (111 FOR JAN, 563 FOR FEB).
AS A CHECK AGAINST THESE FIGURES, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
WOUNDED BROUGHT INTO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL RECEPTION
(TRIAGE) CENTER WAS 10,070 FOR THE TWO MONTH PERIOD.
NOT ONLY IS THIS SOME 2,000 HIGHER THAN THE FANK J-3
FIGURES, BUT THE LATTER ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THE ENTIRE
COUNTRY, NOT JUST PHNOM PENH AREA. (DEFENSE ATTACHE
WOULD EXPECT COUNTRYSIDE WOUNDED TO REACH SOME 15,000
FOR THE TWO MONTHS.) THIS IS CITED JUST TO RECOMMEND
A CERTAIN SKEPTICISM REGARDING THE FANK FIGURES,
WHICH IN OUR OPINION ARE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN THE
TRUE FIGURE. WE ESTIMATE THAT BETWEEN 1 JAN AND 20
FEB. 4260 FANK PERSONNEL WERE KILLED IN ACTION.

5. THE CODEL ASKED FOR CASUALTY FIGURES BY UNITS. HERE
ARE SOME SAMPEL FIGURES FOR MAJOR UNITS: (JAN 1 - FEB 28)

FIRST DIVISION: 60 KILLED IN ACTION, 170 WOUNDED.

SECOND DIVISION: 14 KILLED; 1,030 HOSPITALIZED.
(WOULD INCLUDE PREVIOUSLY WOUNDED
AND SICK); 9 MISSING IN ACTION.

THIRD DIVISION: 170 KILLED, 955 WOUNDED, NO REPORTED MISSING.

SEVENTH DIVISION: 1,800 KILLED AND WOUNDED; 500 PLUS MISSING.

NINTH DIVISION: (FOR FEB ONLY): 45 KILLED; 194 WOUNDED;
258 MISSING.

AIRBORNE (PARA) BRIGADE (OF STRENGTH OF ABOUT
1,200): 81 KILLED; 345 WOUNDED.

23RD BRIGADE (OF ABOUT 1,100): 28 KILLED; 145 WOUNDED.

13TH BRIGADE (OF ABOUT 800): 20 KILLED; 148 WOUNDED.

5TH BRIGADE (OF ABOUT 800); 300 KILLED AND WOUNDED;
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03777 01 OF 02 020851Z

100 MISSING.

KHMER NAVY (INCLUDES BOTH NAVAL MARINES AND BOAT
CREWS): 308 KILLED; 649 WOUNDED; 117 MISSING IN ACTION.

6. AMMUNITION CONSUMPTION: THE FOLLOWING ARE DAILY
REPEAT DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION RATES FOR THE WEEKS
ENDING ON THE RESPECTIVE DATES:

3 JAN - 344; 10 JAN - 570; 17 JAN - 571; 24 JAN - 555;

31 JAN - 704; 7 FEB - 503; 14 FEB - 342; 21 FEB - 347;

28 FEB - 363. ON MARCH 1, REFLECTING SLIGHTLY
INCREASED STOCKS AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT AIRLIFT, DAILY
ISSUE ROSE TO 542 TONS, A FIGURE WHICH INDICATES THE
LIKELY CONTINUING CONSUMPTION RATE FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.
AT LEAST.

7. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND PHARMACEUTICALS - MILITARY.

\$2.0 MILLION HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR THIS PURPOSE OUT OF THE
FY 1975 MAP PROGRAM, OF WHICH ALL FUNDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN OBLIGATED.
OUT OF THE \$222 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST, \$750,000 HAS BEEN
PROGRAMMED FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

8. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND PHARMACEUTICALS - CIVILIAN.

THE AID-SUPPORTED EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND, WHICH FINANCES
LICENSED IMPORTS, FINANCED \$4.8 MILLION OF PHARMACEUTICALS
IN CALENDAR 1973 AND \$3.2 MILLION IN CALENDAR YEAR 1974 (THIS
FUND OPERATES BY THE CALENDAR YEAR). THE FUND ALSO FINANCED
CHEMICALS (OTHER THAN PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS) OF
\$955,000 AND \$1.6 MILLION FOR CALENDAR 1973 AND 1974,
RESPECTIVELY. IT MAY BE ASSUMED THAT ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THESE
CHEMICAL IMPORTS WERE RAW MATERIALS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL
MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN PHNOM PENH.

9. SOME OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH ARE LARGELY
FINANCED BY AID BUY THEIR OWN MEDICAL SUPPLIES WITH SOME
OF THE AID-FURNISHED FUNDS. THUS, WORLD VISION AVERAGES
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PHNOM 03777 01 OF 02 020851Z

\$25,000 A MONTH, AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AVERAGES
\$55,000 A MONTH, FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES.
LUTHERAN WORLD SIMILARLY PURCHASES \$100,000 PER YEAR.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PHNOM 03777 02 OF 02 020902Z

11

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 NSC-06 SS-07 /024 W

----- 116946

O R 020640Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9577

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 3777

THIS WOULD BRING TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO MORE THAN \$1 MILLION A YEAR. TWO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS AND UNICEF, ALSO BRING IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AND OF COURSE THE U.S. CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR FUNDS THROUGH THE PARENT ORGANIZATIONS. UNICEF BRINGS IN \$350,000 AND ICRC BRINGS IN \$660,000 A YEAR OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. ACCORDINGLY, MEDICAL SUPPLY IMPORTS BY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AGENCIES TOTAL ABOUT \$2 MILLION A YEAR.

10. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SUPPORTED BY AID TELL US THEY EXPECT THEIR PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS FOR THE COMING YEAR TO RISE ABOUT 40 PERCENT. THIS INCREASE WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH AID GRANTS MADE TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

11. EXAMPLES OF THE WILL TO RESIST. A MEMBER OF THE CODEL ASKED FOR SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF MILITARY ACTION BY THIS SIDE WHICH ARE INDICATIVE OF A WILL TO RESIST. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES;

A. KOMPONG SEILA, WHICH HAD BEEN CUT OFF AND SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY SINCE MAY 1974 (AND STILL IS), WITHSTOOD INTENSIVE ENEMY SHELLING, RISING TO AS MUCH AS 1,000 ROUNDS PER NIGHT, AND GROUND ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS. A KHMER SPECIAL FORCES TEAM WAS AIRLIFTED INTO THE CAMP ON JAN. 12. IT FOUND THAT THERE WERE 8,800 CIVILIANS, SOME 800 MILITARY EFFECTIVES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PHNOM 03777 02 OF 02 020902Z

AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN OVER 500 KILLED IN ACTION, SOME 400 WOUNDED AND ANOTHER 300 SICK. YET THESE PEOPLE HAD HELD THEIR ISOLATED ENCLAVE FOR EIGHT MONTHS. THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO. THEIR MORALE WAS SURPRISINGLY HIGH. MEANWHILE SUPPLIES CONTINUE TO BE PARACHUTED IN TO TEM, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS.

B. AT SIEM REAP, FANK FORCES WERE DEPLETED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 11TH BRIGADE (A COMBAT INTERVENTION UNIT) TO REINFORCE PHNOM PENH. ON JAN. 15 THE KHMER COMMUNISTS CUT ROUTE 4, THE CITY'S ONLY LINK WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. THE REMAINING MILITARY REGION FORCES, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE STILL REQUIRED TO MAN A LARGE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER AROUND THE CITY TO PROTECT THE POPULATION, BEGAN CLEARING OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND BY FEB. 6 HAD SUCCEEDED IN OPENING THE ROAD AGAINST STRONG ENEMY RESISTANCE. 229 ENEMY WERE KILLED IN THESE OPERATIONS.

C. ON JAN. 16 AN ALL-DAY BATTLE BETWEEN THE KHMER COMMUNISTS (KC) AND THE 3RD DIVISION, TOOK A DECISIVE TURN IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THE KC, ALREADY BEATEN AND RETREATING, WERE HIT IN THE FLANK BY THE DIVISION'S SQUADRON OF LIGHT ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS. IN THE ENSUING HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT, 66 KC WERE KILLED BY THE FANK FORCES.

D. DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE KC DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN IN JAN, THE ENEMY WAS ABLE TO MASS OVERWHELMING FORCES ALONG THE LOWER MEKONG RIVER. NEAR THE EAST BANK TOWN OF NEAK LUONG, THE 19TH BATTALION WAS PERFORMING SECURITY OPERATIONS ALONG HIGHWAY ONE ON THE WEST BANK WHEN THE KC ATTACK BEGAN. THE BATTALION GAVE GROUND SLOWLY AGAINST THIS SUPERIOR FORCE. ON JAN. 14 THE BATTALION COUNTERATTACKED THE KC IN A SURPRISE MOVE AND KILLED 118 OF THE ENEMY. THE KC STRUCK BACK THE NEXT DAY, BUT LOST 47 MORE KILLED AS THE 19TH BATTALION CONTINUED TO EXACT A HEAVY TOLL FROM THE ATTACKING FORCE.

E. THE FANK 7TH DIVISION HAS BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING IN THE NORTHWEST SECTOR OF PHNOM PENH SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PHNOM 03777 02 OF 02 020902Z

NEW YEAR'S DAY. THE KC HAVE ROTATED FRESH UNITS INTO THE LINE ON A REGULAR BASIS. FOR THE 7TH DIVISION THERE HAS BEEN NO RELIEF. DESPITE BEING FREQUENTLY CUT OFF AND CONSTANTLY UNDER HEAVY BOMBARDMENT BY KC ARTILLERY, THE DIVISION HAS HELD THE LINE TO THE LIMITS OF ITS PHYSICAL ABILITY, THOUGH SUFFERING CASUALTIES WHICH, BY AMERICAN STANDARDS, WOULD HAVE RENDERED THE UNIT COMBAT INEFFECTIVE.

F. THE KHMER NAVY (MNK) HAS BEEN UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE SINCE JAN. 1. DURING THIS PERIOD IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UP TO 60 PERCENT OF ITS EXPERIENCED BOAT CREWS HAVE BEEN PUT OUT OF ACTION AS A DIRECT RESULT

OF COMBAT OPERATIONS. THE WEAR AND TEAR ON THE NAVAL CRAFT HAS BEEN EVERY BIT AS SEVERE AS THE STRAIN ON HUMAN RESOURCES. YET MNK CONTINUES TO RUN NIGHTLY SHIPPING CONVOYS TO ISOLATED GARRISONS THROUGHOUT THE RIVERINE REGION, ALMOST EVERY VOYAGE OF WHICH RECDIVES HEAVY ENEMY FIRE FROM FIXED EMPLACEMENTS ON THE BANKS, AND TO CARRY OUT OTHER COMBAT OPERATIONS ON A DAILY BASIS.

H. THE AIRBORNE BRIGADE, CALLED THE PARAS, DISTINGUISHED ITSELF THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD BY ITS AGGRESSIVENESS AND FORTITUDE. AS JAN. OPENED, THE PARAS, ALREADY EXHAUSTED FROM HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE BASSAC RIVER CORRIDOR IN DEC., WERE INSERTED ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITED THE CAPITAL WHERE THE KC HAD DRIVEN A SALIENT ALL THE WAY TO RIVER'S EDGE. WITH VERY LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER COMBAT FORCES AND A LOW PRIORITY IN AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT, THE PARAS SUCCEEDED IN PUSHING THE KC OUT OF THE AREA, LARGELY BY DINT OF THEIR OWN SUPERIOR WILL AND SPIRIT.

12. THIS MESSAGE CAN BE DECLASSIFIED AND GIVEN TO THE CODEL.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, REPORTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM03777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0361
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750390/aaaaddsz.tel
Line Count: 301
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION REQUESTED BY CODEL
TAGS: OREP, MILI, MOPS, EAID, CB, US
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006